



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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**HAWAII ENDS 2006 WITH LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN 30 YEARS**

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Fell to 2.0 Percent for December

**HONOLULU-** The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 2.0 percent, a decline of 0.3 percentage point from November's rate of 2.3 percent. The December unemployment rate represents the lowest rate in the 30 year history that the State of Hawai'i has calculated seasonally adjusted employment numbers.

	DEC 2006	NOV 2006	DEC 2005
<b>STATE</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>
HONOLULU*	1.6	2.2	2.3
HAWAII COUNTY*	1.9	2.6	2.7
KAUAI*	1.5	2.1	2.4
MAUI COUNTY*	1.5	2.2	2.3
Maui Island*	1.5	2.1	2.2
Molokai*	3.2	6.0	6.2
Lanai*	1.9	1.4	1.9
<b>U. S.</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.9</b>

\*Non-Seasonally Adjusted

In contrast, the national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged over-the-month at 4.5 percent. For the year 2006, Hawai'i's annual average unemployment rate was 2.6 percent. In comparison, for the year 2005, Hawai'i's annual average unemployment rate was 2.8 percent.

In 2006 over 2005, the statewide labor force grew by 17,150 and number of employed persons increased by 18,100. Alternatively, from December 2005 to December 2006, Hawai'i's unemployed population dropped 25.6% from 17,550 persons to 13,050. In December 2006, there were 648,750 employed and 13,050 unemployed, for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 661,800.

State of Hawai'i Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data**			
	<u>Dec 2006</u>	<u>Nov 2006</u>	<u>Dec 2005</u>
Labor Force	661,800	660,800	644,100
Employment	648,750	645,950	626,600
Unemployment	13,050	14,900	17,550

**Industry Payroll Employment**

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs declined over-the-month by 2,500 or 0.4 percentage point, to 623,200. The decrease in jobs in December over November was primarily due to the release of general election workers. The private sector in isolation actually expanded in December over November, growing by 1,300 jobs.

Compared with December 2005, the total number of nonagricultural jobs has grown by 12,000, or 2.0 percent, with the private sector accounting for 9,600, or 80 percent of the job growth. For the year 2006, the annual average for total nonagricultural jobs was 618,400. In comparison, the annual average in 2005 was 602,100, an increase of 2.7 percent over-the-year.

**Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs**

	<b>Dec-06</b>	<b>Nov-06</b>	<b>Dec-05*</b>
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTR.	36,800	36,300	35,700
MANUFACTURING	15,300	15,200	15,400
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	122,500	122,500	120,400
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	71,200	70,900	70,800
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	108,500	108,400	107,500
OTHER SERVICES	26,000	25,800	25,400
GOVERNMENT	122,100	125,900	119,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>623,200</b>	<b>625,700</b>	<b>611,200</b>

❖ **Construction**

Construction continued to grow for the third consecutive month. The majority of the added 500 jobs were in special trade construction.

❖ **Education & Health Services**

This service industry grew by 300 jobs primarily due to the hiring of health care workers in doctors' offices and social service programs.

❖ **Other Services**

Other services grew by 200 jobs, most of which were in social advocacy organizations.

❖ **Manufacturing**

Over-the-month, this goods producing industry increased slightly by 100.

❖ **Leisure & Hospitality**

Jobs in this sector also rose by a minimal 100.

❖ **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities**

Trade, Transportation, & Utilities remained relatively stable.

❖ **Government**

The decline of 3,800 jobs in Government was mainly due to the release of poll workers and election officials hired for the general election.

"The lowest unemployment rate in at least the last 30 years is a testament to the vibrancy of our local economy," said Nelson B. Befitel, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. "At year end, job creation in 2006 exceeded the amount of people entering the workforce. Hawai'i's job growth continues to significantly reduce the number of unemployed people in our state."

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**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

	DEC 2006	NOV 2006	DEC 2005
<b>STATE</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.4</b>
HONOLULU	1.6	2.2	2.3
HAWAII COUNTY	1.9	2.6	2.7
KAUAI	1.5	2.1	2.4
MAUI COUNTY	1.5	2.2	2.3
Maui Island	1.5	2.1	2.2
Molokai	3.2	6.0	6.2
Lanai	1.9	1.4	1.9
<b>U. S.</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>

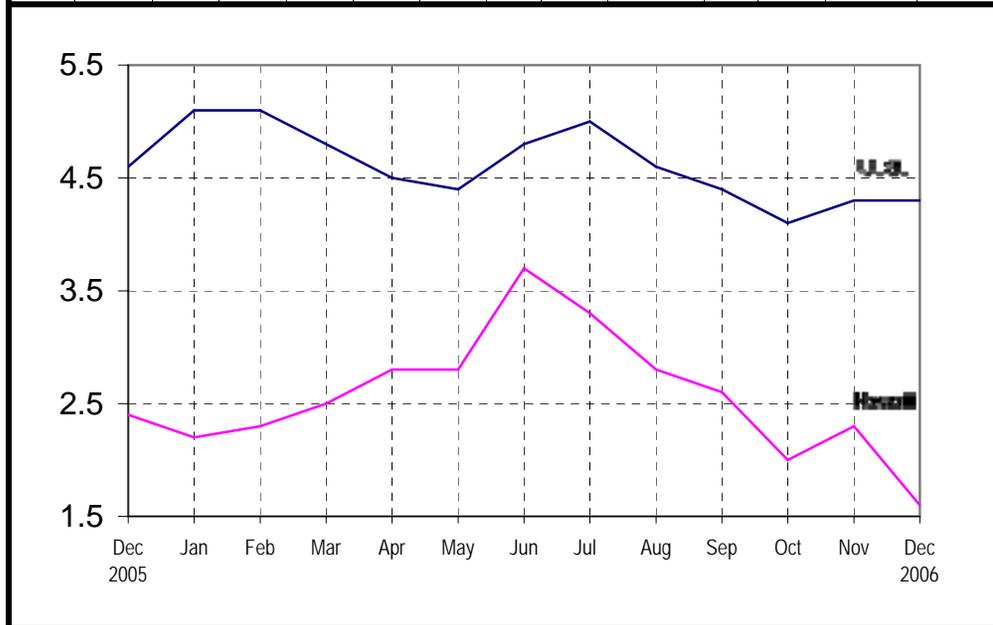
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

	DEC 2006	NOV 2006	DEC 2005
<b>STATE</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>U. S.</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.9</b>

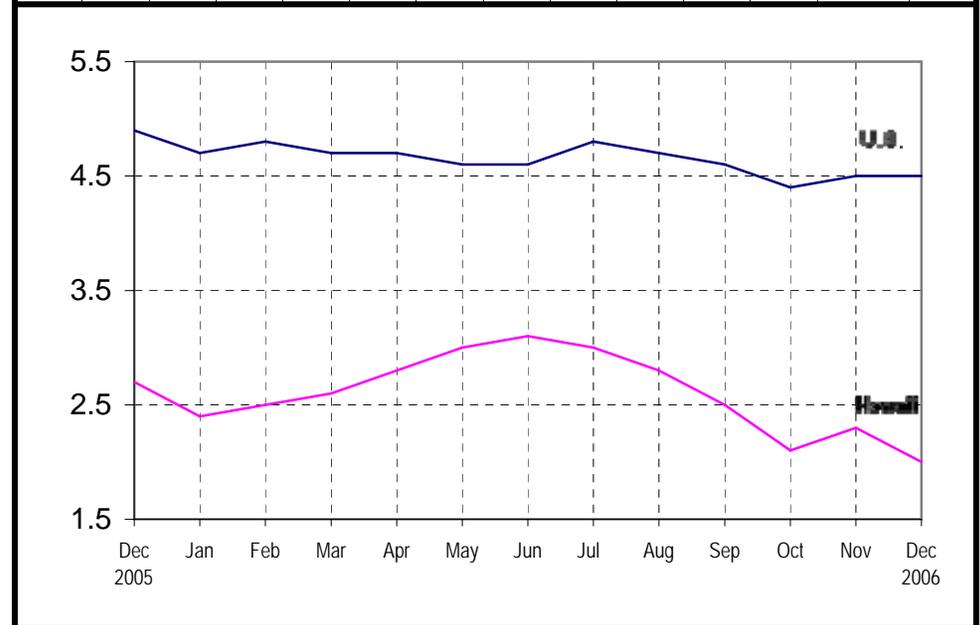
	<u>Dec 2006</u>	<u>Nov 2006</u>	<u>Dec 2005</u>
Labor Force	661,800	660,800	644,100
Employment	648,750	645,950	626,600
Unemployment	13,050	14,900	17,500

\*\* totals may not add up due to rounding

	Dec 2005	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec 2006
U. S.	4.6	5.1	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.8	5.0	4.6	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.3
Hawaii	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.8	2.8	3.7	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.0	2.3	1.6



	Dec 2005	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec 2006
U. S.	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.5
Hawaii	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.0



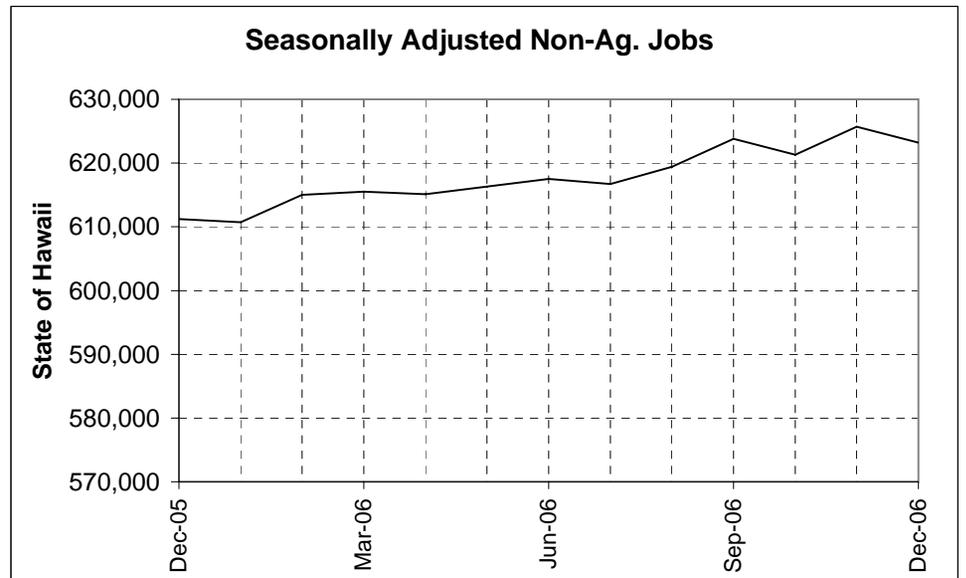
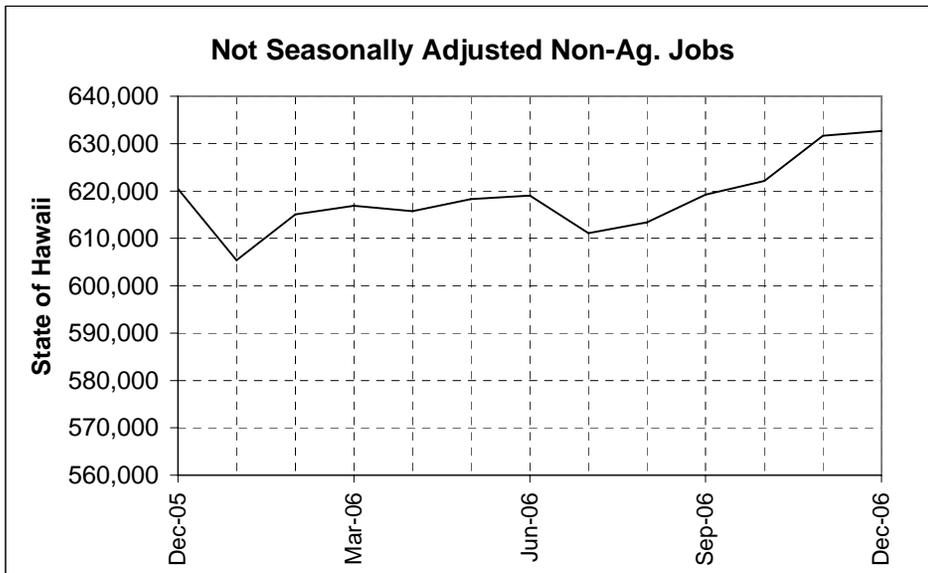
### Not Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs

	Dec-06	Nov-06	Dec-05*
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTR.	36,700	36,500	35,600
MANUFACTURING	15,200	15,250	15,350
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	126,550	124,500	124,350
INFORMATION	11,000	11,000	11,100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	30,650	30,450	29,850
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	80,200	79,550	76,150
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	72,050	71,750	71,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	109,300	108,700	108,250
OTHER SERVICES	26,100	25,950	25,550
GOVERNMENT	124,950	128,000	122,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>632,700</b>	<b>631,650</b>	<b>620,450</b>

### Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs

	Dec-06	Nov-06	Dec-05*
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTR.	36,800	36,300	35,700
MANUFACTURING	15,300	15,200	15,400
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	122,500	122,500	120,400
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	71,200	70,900	70,800
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	108,500	108,400	107,500
OTHER SERVICES	26,000	25,800	25,400
GOVERNMENT	122,100	125,900	119,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>623,200</b>	<b>625,700</b>	<b>611,200</b>

\* BENCHMARKED DATA



**LABOR FORCE AND JOBCOUNT ESTIMATES**  
**December 2006 Report, Statewide**

	DEPARTMENT OF LABOR -- LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES							
	STATEWIDE							
	<b>(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)</b>							
	Dec-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	CHANGE FROM ONE MONTH AGO		CHANGE FROM ONE YEAR AGO		
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	661.2	661.9	644.8	-0.7	-0.1%	16.4	2.5%	
TOTAL EMPLOYED	650.7	646.8	629.5	3.9	0.6%	21.2	3.4%	
UNEMPLOYED	10.5	15.1	15.2	-4.6	-30.5%	-4.7	-30.9%	
percent of Labor Force	1.6%	2.3%	2.4%					
Total Nonfarm	632.7	631.6	620.5	1.1	0.2%	12.3	2.0%	
Total Private	507.8	503.6	497.8	4.2	0.8%	10.0	2.0%	
Goods Producing	51.9	51.7	51.0	0.2	0.3%	1.0	1.9%	
Service-Providing	580.8	579.9	569.5	0.9	0.2%	11.3	2.0%	
Private Service-Providing	455.9	451.9	446.8	4.0	0.9%	9.0	2.0%	
Nat. Res & Construct	36.7	36.5	35.6	0.2	0.5%	1.1	3.0%	
Construction of Buildings	11.9	11.9	11.3	0.0	0.0%	0.6	4.6%	
Special Trade Contractors	19.5	19.3	19.1	0.1	0.3%	0.3	5.5%	
Manufacturing	15.2	15.2	15.3	0.0	-0.2%	-0.1	-0.7%	
Durable Goods	4.5	4.4	4.6	0.0	0.7%	-0.1	-2.2%	
Non-Durable Goods	10.8	10.8	10.8	-0.1	-0.6%	0.0	-0.1%	
Trade, Transportation,	126.5	124.5	124.3	2.0	1.6%	2.2	1.8%	
Wholesale Trade	18.5	18.3	18.1	0.2	1.2%	0.4	2.0%	
Retail Trade	73.8	72.3	74.0	1.5	2.1%	-0.2	-0.3%	
Food and Beverage Sto	13.2	13.0	13.2	0.2	1.2%	0.0	0.2%	
Grocery Stores	10.9	10.8	10.9	0.1	0.8%	-0.1	-0.6%	
Clothing and Clothing	12.3	12.0	12.5	0.3	2.4%	-0.1	-1.2%	
General Merchandise S	13.5	13.0	13.6	0.4	3.4%	-0.2	-1.3%	
Department Stores	10.1	9.8	10.5	0.3	2.6%	-0.4	-3.8%	
Trans,Warehouse, Util	34.2	33.9	32.2	0.3	0.8%	2.0	6.3%	
Utilities	2.9	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.2%	0.1	1.9%	
Transport & Warehouse	31.3	31.0	29.3	0.3	0.9%	2.0	6.8%	
Air Transportation	10.2	10.2	10.2	0.0	0.1%	0.1	0.8%	
Information	11.0	11.0	11.1	0.0	0.2%	-0.1	-0.6%	
Telecommunications	4.2	4.2	4.0	0.0	0.2%	0.3	6.3%	
Financial Activities	30.7	30.4	29.8	0.2	0.7%	0.8	2.7%	
Finance and Insurance	17.3	17.2	16.7	0.1	0.6%	0.6	3.5%	
Real Estate and Renta	13.3	13.2	13.1	0.1	1.0%	0.2	1.7%	
Professional and Busin	80.2	79.6	76.1	0.6	0.8%	4.1	5.3%	
Professional, Scienti	24.9	24.6	23.8	0.3	1.4%	1.1	4.5%	
Management of Compani	7.6	7.6	7.7	0.0	-0.1%	0.0	-0.6%	
Administrative and Su	47.7	47.4	44.6	0.3	0.6%	3.0	6.8%	
Employment Services	19.0	18.6	16.8	0.3	1.8%	2.2	13.1%	
Educational and Health	72.1	71.7	71.6	0.3	0.4%	0.5	0.6%	
Educational Services	14.3	14.5	14.0	-0.1	-1.0%	0.3	2.3%	
Elementary and Second	7.4	7.5	7.2	-0.1	-1.4%	0.2	2.8%	
Health Care and Socia	57.7	57.3	57.6	0.5	0.8%	0.1	0.2%	
Ambulatory Health Car	23.2	23.0	23.2	0.2	0.9%	0.0	0.0%	
Hospitals	13.7	13.7	14.3	0.0	-0.3%	-0.6	-4.3%	
Nursing and Residenti	6.7	6.7	6.8	0.0	0.2%	0.0	-0.3%	
Social Assistance	14.1	13.8	13.3	0.3	2.1%	0.8	5.7%	
Leisure and Hospitalit	109.3	108.7	108.3	0.6	0.6%	1.1	1.0%	
Arts, Entertainment,	11.9	11.9	11.9	0.1	0.6%	0.1	0.6%	
Accommodation and Foo	97.4	96.8	96.4	0.6	0.6%	1.0	1.0%	
Accommodation	39.3	39.3	39.4	0.0	0.0%	-0.1	-0.3%	
Food Services and Dri	58.1	57.6	57.0	0.6	1.0%	1.1	2.0%	
Full-Service Restaura	29.8	29.5	29.3	0.2	0.8%	0.5	1.8%	
Other Services	26.1	25.9	25.5	0.1	0.6%	0.5	2.1%	
Government	124.9	128.0	122.7	-3.1	-2.4%	2.3	1.8%	
Federal Government	32.1	32.1	31.8	0.0	0.0%	0.3	0.8%	
Ship Building & Repai	4.0	4.0	4.1	0.0	-0.1%	-0.1	-0.7%	
Department of Defense	16.2	16.3	16.4	0.0	0.0%	-0.1	-2.9%	
State Government	75.3	78.4	73.6	-3.1	-4.0%	1.6	2.2%	
State Govt. Education	50.9	50.1	49.8	0.8	1.7%	1.1	2.3%	
Local Government	17.6	17.6	17.3	0.1	0.4%	0.4	2.1%	